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AUG 14 2006

Application No. 10/749,403
Amendment dated August 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 12, 2006

Docket No.: 2450-0618P

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are now present in this application.

The specification and claim 1 have been amended, and claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 1 stands objected to for an informality. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this informality has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Benson et al., U.S. Patent 5,175,975. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of objected-to but allowable claim 4 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection are respectfully requested.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 4, 6 and 7 to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

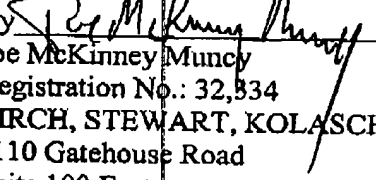
Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy
Registration No.: 32,334
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant